

Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



8/9 JULY 2017
14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ✦ YEAR A

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Finding a Just Savior

The world looks for strength in power, the ability to control others. It looks for strength in wealth, the ability to own and accumulate possessions. It looks for strength in developing advantages over others, such as superior education and prestigious positions.

Revelation presents a different picture. It introduces us to a messiah who is “meek, and riding on an ass.” It wants us to believe that our strength is in a man whose boast is that “I am gentle and humble of heart.” It praises God for contradicting the wisdom of the world: “for what you have hidden from the learned and the clever you have revealed to the merest children.”

Maybe we continue to suffer so many miseries because we look for answers in the wrong places. We look “up” at the rich and powerful, expecting to find strength and security, and we are disillusioned with “empty promises of passing joy.”

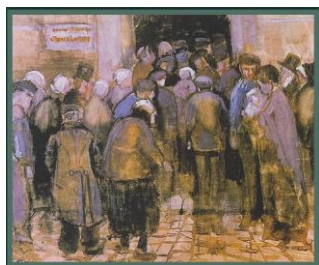
Perhaps we should look “down” at the meek and humble, the little people, the sick and dying, the poor and hungry.

For it is among them that we will find our just savior, the God whose “right hand is filled with justice.”

The power of the Spirit, who raised Christ from the dead, is continuously at work in the world. Through the generous sons and daughters of the Church likewise, the people of God is present in the midst of the poor and of those who suffer oppression and persecution; it lives in its own flesh and its own heart the Passion of Christ and bears witness to his resurrection- *Synod of Bishops, Justice in the World*

Today's gospel reading from Matthew - filled with light and joy - is all the more remarkable, in that it follows passages that recall a lack of response to the ministry of Jesus in his own region of Galilee. The leaders of the nation have rejected him; in Judea, he is despised as a Galilean; and now his own people have turned against him. Perhaps this passage, that promises ‘rest’, recalls the times he took his disciples aside to encourage them. But his call is universal, it includes ‘all’ who are overwhelmed by discouragement to come to him. We will find our encouragement in the joy brought by faith in him.

The note of joy brought by faith already sounds in the words of the prophet, in the first reading. Jesus knew that, despite all these setbacks, his ministry and his words are the ✠



long awaited climax to the remarkable tradition of faith and hope that has sustained the common people who were the true believers of old Israel. 'Rejoice, daughter of Zion! Shout with gladness', the prophet cries out, rejoice because the messiah king is coming – doing away with the 'horses' and other things of war, he will ride on a donkey, but strong and triumphant, as he brings a peace that embraces the whole world.

Gathering his disciples around him, Jesus encouraged them by sharing with them, in prayer, the joy he found in the relationship with his Father that was his very life. The themes of the Scriptures heard in the synagogue, must often have found an echo in the prayer of Jesus. This passage brings out something we could easily overlook, as we ask ourselves how Jesus formed his disciples and prepared them to take up the great mission to which he was calling them. By sharing his prayer with them, he teaches them the great truths they must announce to the world - the mystery of his relationship with his Father; the strength he found in that relationship, how he made his whole life an expression of the ways of the Father. In the remarkable moment of prayer remembered in this gospel, Jesus is filled with joy and gratitude that the Father gives a privileged place to the 'little ones' who have been the first concern of his ministry. It is the simple people who have kept the faith of Israel alive, and who will carry on his mission down through the ages. As the disciples share in his prayer, he helps them to 'know' the Father. In the language of the Scriptures, let us recall, this word means far more than gathering information. It implies a sharing of life that brings the joys and security of true friendship. It was in his prayer that they came to know the intimacy with the Father that he expressed in the word, Abba, when addressing his Father. We know from St Paul, that the first Christians adopted this same form of address to the eternal Father (see Gal 4:6). As they recalled that he taught them to begin their prayer, 'Our Father', memories of the prayer he had shared with them must have given a greater depth to their personal prayer.

Both Paul and John tell us we should make the Saviour the model of our Christian life. He was himself the perfect embodiment of the life to which God's faithful people are called. In the time of Jesus. The rabbis spoke of the Law as God's 'yoke'. The Saviour assures that if we try to live as he would live, the 'yoke' of New Law he brings is 'easy and light'.

**One Non-Perishable Item per Family each Week
to help the needy in the local Illawarra area**

FR ANDREW AT WOLLONGONG CLERGY CONFERENCE

Fr Andrew will be away from the parish from Tuesday, **11 July** to Thursday, **13 July**. He will be attending the annual Wollongong Clergy conference – held at the Catholic Club in Campbelltown. There will be no Mass in the parish on each of these days: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday. A Communion Service will be held at the usual time in place of the Mass on these days.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Wednesday, 12 July, CWL will be celebrating Christmas in July with the St David's Anglican Women's Fellowship at the Bowling Club. Please arrive at 11:45am for 12:15pm.





Congratulations to **Patrick Tobin** who will turn 90 on 11 July

2016 NATIONAL CHURCH LIFE SURVEY RESULT

Every week a highlight from the survey will be published in the bulletin.

Who Took Part?

These results are based on 205 adult attenders aged 15 years and over and 10 children* aged 8 to 14 who completed the 2016 National Church Life Survey at our church.

**NB: If fewer than 10 child surveys returned, no results displayed.*

Copies of our parish summary profile are available after the mass. It was also attached to email with bulletin.

PASTORAL CARE VOLUNTEER SUPPORT MEETING

Bi-monthly meeting of Pastoral Care Volunteers will be held on Wednesday, 19 July 10am -12pm at St. Columbkille's Corrimal in the parish meeting room. We welcome new members who are interested in visiting the aged and ministry to the sick and dying. Training and ongoing support provided by CatholicCare. If you would like to join us or know someone who would benefit from the visit of a caring volunteer please call Rebecca – ☎ 0448 930 287 or ✉ rebeca.miller@catholiccare.dow.org.au

CATHOLIC CARE STRENGTHEN YOUR RELATIONS

Parenting workshops available from July now taking bookings. To build on your parenting skills and strengthen your family relationships go to the calendar at ✉ www.catholiccare.dow.org.au or give CatholicCare a call on ☎ 4227 1122

2017 INTER CHURCH BOOT CAMP FOR MEN

No Man Left Behind is a series of fantastic evenings for men from 18-99 dealing with topics of relationships, work life balance, health and sexuality. It is being run as a Northern Illawarra inter church event and will run on Tuesday, **20 & 28 June** and **19 & 16 July** from 7:30-9:30pm at Bulli Anglican Church Hall. Cost is \$5 per night, which includes the talk, finger food, coffee and a top night with other men of faith committed to being the best they can be. For more information contact Jude Hennessy ☎ 4222 2407



FATHER KEN IN USA

*Start spreadin' the news, I'm leavin' today
I want to be a part of it, New York, New York
These vagabond shoes are longing to stray
Right through the very heart of it, New York,*



THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time • YEAR A
1st Reading Zech 9:9-10
2nd Reading Rom 8:9, 11-13
Gospel Mt 11:25-30

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time • YEAR A
1st Reading Is 55:10-11
2nd Reading Rom 8:18-23
Gospel Mt 13:1-23

SUNDAY MASS TIMES
Church of St Michael • Thirroul
 Saturday – 5:30pm • Sunday – 8:00am
Bulli Sunday 8:30am and 5:30pm
Corrimal Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9:30am

LITURGIES THIS WEEK
Wombarra [*Liturgy*] Monday 4:30pm
Thirroul Tuesday 5:30pm
 Wednesday 9:00am
 Thursday 9:00am
 Friday 9:30am

Parish of St Michael – Thirroul and Wombarra

Moving forward as a Parish Family + one of the Northern Illawarra Parishes

Patrick Vaughan • Parish Priest ❖ Geoff Allen, Ken Cafe ofm • Assistant Priests

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 4268 1910 4268 1976

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thirroul@dow.org.au

Parish Office Hours Tuesday, Wednesday Friday

9:00am to 3:30pm Magda Pires
 10:00am to 3:00pm Maureen Franciskovic

www.thirroulcatholic.org.au Parish School of St Michael 4267 2560